

To Ravalli County Commissioners:

March 29, 2009

I send you this letter in an effort to convince you to listen to reason and submit that some common sense will go a long way in determining the right choice on the EA for Ravalli County Airport (RCA).

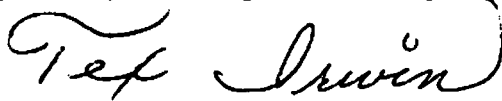
We know a decision should have been made years ago but that is a mute point at this time. Your duty now, as an elected official, is to study all aspects of every issue that comes before you. Only then are you able to make an informed and defensible position within the best interest of this County and its citizens. The problem that will always arise is some residents will never agree with you or support you in that decision. As an elected official you have to go ahead and make a decision.

All of us have sat through numerous meetings and listened to arguments pro and con with the improvements proposed for RCA. Ravalli County is not stuck in time, as some people would hope. Progress and the future of RCA is something that needs your immediate attention. The current layout of RCA is stuck in a time that has come and gone. The current aircraft that fly into RCA today require more in terms of safety and separation distances than those of years past. Therefore I suggest you chose Alternative # 4 in the E.A. for RCA as the best choice for this County.

Alternative # 4 is the only choice that would provide the best and biggest safety margin for today's aircraft that use RCA. The length of the runway at 5200' is part of that safety margin. Alternative # 4 is also the only choice you can make that would prevent Ravalli County from providing funds for its share. We've all heard the Safety Foundation say it would provide those matching funds, but only if your choice is the E.A. Alternative # 4.

The relocation of runway 16/34 by 600' north and 400' east provides greater separation from residential houses, the school and the City of Hamilton. A relocation as stipulated in Alternative # 4 also would allow RCA to become more self-sustaining by providing future ramp space, hangar space, light industrial space and space from encroachment. A County owned and Aviation Funded transportation facility that provides jobs, enhances the local economy, provides needed medical and fire response, doesn't cost the County citizens and gives them access to the world seems a disservice to your constituents if you don't vote in favor of Alternative # 4.

I appreciate your taking time listening too all and say Thank You for doing that.



Tex Irwin